

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

Medical Officer of Health,

Tiverton Rural District.

❖ REPORT ❖

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1904.

TIVERTON:

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TO THE

TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1904.

Soil and Subsoil of the District.—The General character of the District is hilly, rising in parts to an elevation of over 800 feet. The higher portions of the District are intersected by numerous deep cut valleys which rapidly carry off from the Uplands the heavy fall of water which occurs during severe rain storms. The Eastern portion of the District is the least hilly, with the exception of the land above the village of Blackborough where the elevation is nearly 900 feet.

In the parishes of Cadbury, Clayhanger, Oakford, Butterleigh, Huntsham and Thorverton, the soil is of a clayey description. Uffculme has marle, while in the parishes of Cadeleigh, Cruwys Morchard, Bickleigh, Silverton and Willand, a loamy soil is to be found. Sandy soil occurs in Kentisbeare, Sampford Peverell, and part of Thorverton. The soil in Halberton is of a rich nature, in Bradninch and Cullompton it is of a mixed variety, and in Loxbeare, Washfield and Stoodleigh, it is more or less light.

There are various subsoils in the District, but those most frequently found are marle, gravel, rock or clay.

From the hilly nature of the District, the land is more adapted to grazing and dairying than to agriculture, and is principally used for the former purpose.

Rivers.—The District is traversed by three rivers, viz.: the Exe, the Lowman, and the Culm. All of these three rivers are free from all manufacturing effluents, as the steps that have been taken to prevent the pollution of the Culm by the discharge of the effluents from the factories situated on or near the banks of the river have been successfully carried out.

The factories referred to are as follows:—One tannery and one paper mill at Cullompton; one woollen mill at Uffculme; one paper mill at Hele; one paper mill at Silverton. There is also one woollen mill at Cullompton.

During the year that has just closed the **General Health** of the District has been good, and in most respects compares favourably with the general Health of the last ten years. As regards the death-rate per 1,000, the year 1903 was an exceptionally low one, and it was hardly to be expected that such a low rate could be maintained, and on comparing the death-rates of the two years, we find that the rate per 1,000 has risen from 13.123 in 1903, to 15 in 1904, which of course includes all deaths of residents of the District, who have died in Public Institutions, beyond the confines of the District.

The **Birth-rate** of the District shows a drop of 1.524 per 1,000 below the rate for 1903, which was 26.312. The birth-rate for 1904 being 24.788. The actual number of births in 1904 was 352 as against 401 in 1903.

During the last ten years, there has not been any year in which the births were so few as in 1904.

The number of **Infectious Diseases** notified during the year was 133, being an increase of 84 over the preceding year. This is the largest number of cases notified since 1886, and is entirely due to the epidemic of Scarlet Fever, from which the Southerly portion of the District has been suffering, 85 of the notified cases occurring in the Silverton District and 27 in the Cullompton Division. Although this disease has been so prevalent, still the type of the disease has been of the mildest possible form, and no deaths from Scarlet Fever have taken place in any part of the District.

Beyond Scarlet Fever there were only 20 cases of Infectious Diseases notified. These were as follows:—Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 12, Enteric Fever 3, and Puerperal Fever 2. There were no deaths from Erysipelas, nor Enteric, and one only from Diphtheria. There was one death caused by Puerperal Fever.

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever 59 were in children between the ages of 5 and 15, and 32 between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

The Schools at Kentisbeare, Cullompton, and Bradninch, were closed for various periods during the epidemic, *i.e.*, of Scarlet Fever.

The **Infant Mortality** of the District was somewhat greater in 1904 than in 1903, as in 1904 there were 35 deaths of children under one year of age, whereas in 1903 (an exceptionally healthy year) there were only 24 deaths under one year; in 1902 there were 29. If we go back 10 years to 1894, we find that the deaths under one year of age numbered no less than 65.

This year Pneumonia accounted for six of these Infantile deaths, and Whooping Cough for three, neither of which diseases claimed any victims in 1903. There were also among these early deaths, five from the cause of Premature Birth, as against two in 1903.

While writing on this subject I think it is my duty to repeat the suggestion I made in my Report of 1903 as follows:—As now-a-days, so many mothers are either unable or unwilling to suckle their off-spring, I consider it would be advisable to have cards or circulars printed, and distributed to parents at the time of the registration of a birth, each such card to state plainly the advantage the child derives from its mother's nursing, and at the same time a few simple directions

should be given as to the best methods of artificial feeding, to be used in any cases where this may be found to be a necessity. Under the present ignorance displayed in the feeding of young and delicate children, the surprise is not, that the deaths are so many, but rather that they are so few.

There were 13 deaths from **Phthisis** and 5 from **other Tubercular Diseases**, making in all 18 deaths caused by **Tuberculosis**. This is the same number of deaths as were due to this malady in 1903, and therefore shows no improvement.

It is probable that when the nature of Tuberculosis comes to be better understood by the public at large, and proper precautions are more widely undertaken, that the death-rate from this source will be greatly lessened. Having this object in view the District Council have made the offer to the public to disinfect any house where a death has occurred from Phthisis, but unfortunately, up to the present, no advantage has been taken of the offer, although in one or two cases disinfection has been carried out privately.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Before any newly-built house can be occupied, a certificate of its fitness for habitation must be obtained from the Council, the said certificate only being granted on the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector.

In some localities of the District there is a decided deficiency of cottage property which tends to over-crowding. This is likely to continue to be the case, until land-owners receive more encouragement than at present, to build more and better cottages for their employees.

WATER SUPPLY.

In spite of the short rainfall of the past summer there have not been any complaints of shortness of water supply from any part of the District.

The town of **Bradninch** is supplied with water from two closed reservoirs which are fed by springs.

The old water-mains in this town are being replaced as opportunity occurs by new pipes placed at a greater depth. The old mains having been originally laid too close to the surface, were liable to damage from heavy traffic and other causes. The increased pressure of water passing through the new pipes has also been a cause of trouble, by carrying gravel and other obstructions into the old mains, which has made it necessary to open them and clear away these hindrances to the flow of water. The work of remedying this condition of affairs is now in hand.

Silverton, has a small spring-fed reservoir.

The rest of the District depends upon wells for its water supply, which is generally sufficient for all requirements, except in the higher Districts, during protracted periods of Drought.

SEWERAGE.

Thorverton.—After an enquiry was held into the unsatisfactory condition of the **Irrigation Meadow**, the work was taken in hand anew, and the ground all properly levelled and guttered, and now the working of the **Irrigation Meadow** gives complete satisfaction.

The drainage from the School and the last of the cottages has been connected with the sewer, the sewerage scheme being now completed.

The **Broad Irrigation** system is working well at **Uffculme**.

Silverton.—The 12 inch sewer on the East side of Fore Street has been taken up and re-laid at greater depth, with the result that all the premises are now properly drained.

There are four **Main Sewers** in Silverton, two of which discharge directly on to meadows; the other two sewers discharge into closed tanks which intercept the solids.

It was proposed to lay a short section of pipe in **Parsonage Lane** to abate the nuisance caused by slop-water. This was recommended by the **Parish Council**, but the **District Council** considered that an open tarred gutter would answer the purpose, and this has therefore been constructed.

The Sanitary arrangements at the Silverton **Boy's School** are not in a satisfactory condition.

There is no **Common Lodging House** in the District.

It was found necessary to notify one of the Bakehouses of the District as not being in a proper condition, but immediately upon the notification being received the matter was put in order. The premises of one milliner's and dressmaker's workshop at Cullompton was found to be over-crowded, since then new premises with full accommodation have been built and occupied.

With the exception of the above-mentioned cases, all the **Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Milk Shops, Factories, and Workshops** in the District, have, upon inspection, been found to be clean and properly carried on.

There are no **Offensive Trades** in the District.

METHOD OF DEALING WITH NUISANCES.

The Sanitary Inspector visits and advises the responsible persons as to the abatement of the nuisance. If his recommendations are not carried out, the matter is reported to the Council.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The District working in conjunction with the Town of Tiverton maintains an **Isolation Hospital**, the results from which have been very satisfactory. The number of cases of Infectious Disease, which were admitted to the Hospital from the District during the year was 78. All of these were Scarlet Fever cases.

The **Food and Drugs Act** is under the charge of the Local Police Authorities.

House to House Visitation has been carried out in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector throughout the District.

DISINFECTION.

During the month of November, the Council came to the decision that it would be advisable to have the disinfecting of infected premises carried out by the Council's own Officer as it was found that when the disinfecting was left for the householders to perform that the process of disinfection was not always successful, as was proved by re-curring cases taking place in houses which were supposed to have been disinfected. To perform this work thoroughly the Council bought a Lingner's Disinfecting Apparatus, the disinfectant used being Formaldchye. This has been found to work very satisfactorily, and after using it, up to the present there have not been any second cases from infected houses. The Bye-law only came into force in December, so that as yet it has only undergone a very limited trial.

All the **Factories** of the District have been provided with **Fire Escapes**, in accordance with the **Factories and Workshops Act of 1901**.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

		1902.		1903.		1904.
Birth Rate	...	24.83	—	26.312	—	24.788
Death Rate	...	13.529	—	13.123	—	15.00
Infant Mortality	...	81.58	—	59.85	—	99.43
Zymotic Death Rate		.0392	—	.328	—	.658

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto.

I remain Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

Name of District :—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	16854	430	25·51	65	151·16	270	16·01	..	..	7	277	16·43
1895	16051	434	27·03	52	119·80	264	16·44	..	..	1	256	16·50
1896	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1897	15739	207	26·37	11	53·14	88	10·67	..	..	8	96	12·18
1898	15639	390	24·93	49	121·87	264	16·88	..	..	11	275	17·59
1899	15539	417	26·49	47	112·707	251	15·88	..	..	14	265	17·05
1900	15439	376	24·35	34	90·43	230	13·94	..	..	10	240	15·54
1901	15339	392	25·55	30	76·54	213	15·45	..	..	14	227	14·81
1902	15300	380	24·83	29	76·32	193	12·62	..	..	14	207	13·529
1903	15240	401	26·312	24	59·85	189	12·40	..	..	11	200	13·123
Averages for years 1898—1903	15416	392·66	25·41	35·5	89·62	223·33	14·53	..	..	12·33	235·66	15·273
1904	15200	352	24·788	35	99·43	218	14·34	..	..	10	228	15·00

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table. (See below‡)

				Total population at all ages		..	15,339	} At Census of 1901.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)				..		..	82,000
						
				Number of inhabited houses		..	3,473	}
				Average number of persons per house			4·44	

‡ INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT RECEIVING SICK AND INFIRM PERSONS FROM THE DISTRICT.

Tiverton Workhouse.

Tiverton Infirmary.

Isolation Hospital.

There is not any Union Workhouse within the District.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1.—BAMPTON.				2.—SILVERTON.				3.—CULLOMPTON.			
YEAR.		Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1894	..	3779	91	32	6	4549	125	90	22	8526	214	148	37
1895	..	3779	88	49	8	4549	118	90	25	8526	228	125	29
1896	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1897	..	3270	52	23	3	4058	47	25	2	8319	108	40	6
1898	..	3250	90	35	8	4050	93	82	13	8319	217	147	28
1899	..	3170	90	42	2	3520	122	78	23	8890	205	131	22
1900	..	3140	76	39	2	2929	106	58	12	9340	186	133	20
1901	..	3121	111	42	11	2706	95	53	6	9512	186	132	13
1902	..	3108	115	31	4	2693	108	55	13	9499	157	111	13
1903	..	3077	104	25	5	2663	101	79	12	9500	196	96	7
Averages of Years 1898 to 1903		3144.33	97.66	35.66	5.33	3180.5	104.17	67.5	13.166	9176.66	192.84	125	17.5
1904	..	3070	74	43	5	2655	99	65	12	9475	179	120	18

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district: and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms “resident” and “non-resident.”)

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1904.

Name of District: TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Age†—YEARS.					1	2	3	1	2	3
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.						
						65 and upwards.	Bampton	Cullompton	Silverton	Bampton	Cullompton	Silverton
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Membranous croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	12	1	..	1	1	7	2	4	6	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	113	2	32	59	7	13	1	27	85	..	20	58
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*
Totals ..	133	3	34	61	10	22	4	33	96	..	20	58

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.
*This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.
†These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.
Isolation Hospital:—Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital, Tiverton Borough.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

(See Notes at Back).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Bampton.	Cullompton.	Silverton.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	7	3	3	1	..	..	..	1	4	2	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup }	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever Enteric .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other continued ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea. (See notes at back) ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Enteritis. (See notes at back) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever. (See notes at back) ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) }	13	..	..	1	2	9	1	3	7	3	..
Other tubercular diseases	5	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	4	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease. (See notes at back)	14	..	1	..	..	7	6	4	7	3	1
Bronchitis	23	2	1	..	1	3	16	3	8	12	1
Pneumonia	17	6	1	..	..	2	8	2	10	5	..
Pleurisy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs }	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
Alcoholism }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of liver }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth ..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition }	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Heart diseases ..	29	1	..	1	3	4	20	7	9	13	..
Accidents	8	1	..	..	2	3	2	3	3	2	..
Suicides	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	2	..
All other causes ..	94	13	3	3	..	21	54	14	62	18	8
All causes	228	35	12	7	9	57	108	43	120	65	10

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of “Residents” occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be *included* with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be *included* among the deaths in their respective “Localities” according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of “Non-residents” occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be *excluded* from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of “Residents” and “Non-residents,” and as to the “Public Institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The “Localities” should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of “Residents” or of “Non-residents,” are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several “Localities” in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of “Diarrhœa” are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of “Enteritis” are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term “Diarrhœa.” Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

Under the headings of “Cancer” and “Puerperal fever” should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK, *Medical Officer of Health.*

January 30th, 1905.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES .. (Including Factory Laundries)	Have all been inspected.	One.	None.
WORKSHOPS .. (Including Workshop Laundries)			
WORKPLACES			
HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES			
TOTAL			

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions		
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.			
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>						
Want of cleanliness	One case	Remedied	None.	None.		
Want of ventilation	One „	„				
Overcrowding'	One „	„				
Want of drainage of floors	None	—				
Other nuisances	Dung pit	Remedied				
†Sanitary accommodations {	insufficient	None			None.	None.
	unsuitable or defective	None				
	not separate for sexes	None				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>						
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)	None	—			None.	None.
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100).	None	—				
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107)						
Giving out work to be done in {	None	—				
premises which are {						
unwholesome (S. 108)	None known of	—				
infected (S. 110)						
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (S. 109).	None known of	—				
Other offences						
Total						

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council ; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.										Number.	
Matters notified to H M. Inspector of Factories :—											
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)										None	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)										One Bakehouse at Bradninch, limewashing. One notification by the Clerk of the District Council, referring to above.	
(Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors											
Other											
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—											
In use during 1903										None	
Certificates granted { in 1903 in 1904										None	
In use at end of 1904										None	
Homework :—										Number of	
List of Outworkers* (S. 107) :—										Lists.	Outworkers
Lists received										2	7
Addresses of outworkers .. { forwarded to other Authorities received from other Authorities										None	
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—										Wearing Apparel;	Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)										None	
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises										None	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110)										None	
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.											
Important classes of work-shops, such as workshop bakehouses may be enumerated here. {											
Total number of workshops on Register										172	

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1904.

TO THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following Summary of the Sanitary Work carried out during the past year.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, &c.

ASHILL & UFFCULME.—New 6-inch socket pipe sewer, at ASHILL, with new drains and other sanitary work on premises belonging to the following Owners, viz. : Messrs. Furze & Co., Hurford, Gosling, and W. Trott.

The above sewer should be extended to receive drainage from Summer's Cottage, which is at present polluting two wells.

Uffculme Grammar School.—A new system of drains, and sanitary arrangements re-modelled.

London Inn.—New drains, &c.

Kitwell Street.—Cottages belonging to various Owners.

New drains laid down and connected to sewer in Leat Meadow.

Mount View.—A new six-inch outfall drain laid and connected to High Street sewer.

BRADNINCH.—A new six-inch sewer laid at Beacon Hill and the various premises on the line connected.

One or two sections of sewer in the town are old and defective, and should be replaced as soon as may be convenient.

New drainage, &c., have been carried out as follows :—

Girls' School.—New drainage throughout.

Cottages, Hence Street.—Owner, Mr. Glover. New drains and water closet.

Manor Farm Cottages.—New system of drains.

Fore Street Hill.—Mr. Lake's Premises. New closets and slop water sinks.

CULLOMPTON.—The new Sewage Tanks in the Sewage Field and Duck Street have been constructed and are working very satisfactorily.

New conduits for carrying the town water have been constructed at Methodist Cut and New Street, and a new section of six-inch sewer laid in Methodist Cut.

Private Sanitary Work has been carried out as follows :—

General Purvis'.—New system of drains, two new water closets constructed.

Cottages Station Road.—Owner Mr. Shore. New drains and closed cesspit.

King's Flour Mills.—Closed tank for sewage.

King's Paper Mills.—New system of drains. Lavatories, closets and closed tank for sewage.

Waterloo Cottages.—Owner Mr. Reynolds. New drain, &c.

Shortlands.—New system of drains and sanitary arrangements re-modelled throughout.

Miss Ham, Exeter Road.—New drains, &c.

Mr. C. Reynold's Premises, Fore Street.—New drains, closets, &c.

Mr. C. Reynolds, Cockpitt Hill.—New drains, closets, &c.

Whiteheathfield.—New drainage.

LOXBEARE.—New drainage, closets and other sanitary work at the Royal Oak Inn, and Gibbet Cottage.

SILVERTON.—The 12-inch sewer at back of premises on the East side of Fore Street, constructed by various Owners some years since and which was laid at an insufficient depth, has been taken up and relaid. All houses, &c., on the line of sewer are now properly connected.

Private Sanitary Work is as follows :—

Mr. Fallan, Cottages, High Bullen.—New drain and sink.

Mrs. Reynolds, Fore Street.—New drain, &c.

Mr. Short, Back Lane.—New drain, &c.

Mrs. Thomas, Back Lane.—New drain, &c.

Mr. Southcott's Cottages, Parsonage Lane.—New closet, &c.

THORVERTON: *Sewerage Works*.—These are now working fairly satisfactorily, the Irrigation Area has been properly levelled and guttered, but no decision has been arrived at as regards the best way of dealing with the land; this question should be dealt with by the Committee appointed for that purpose as soon as possible.

New closets and drains have been constructed at Cottages in Jericho Street, owned by Mr. Sharland.

WILLAND.—New drainage and other sanitary work has been carried out at Harpitt House and at the Halfway Inn.

HALBERTON.—A defective sewer passing through Mrs. Melhuish's property near Hill Head, has been taken up and relaid. The small meadow near this, receiving the outfall of sewers and which was acquired by the Council sometime since at a rental of £3 per annum, has up to the present time received no attention. I would suggest the advisability of appointing a Committee to consider whether this land could be turned to account.

Private Sanitary Work in the Village has been as follows:—

Snow House.—New drainage, &c.

Townsend House.—New system of drains and 2 new closets constructed.

Netheraux Farm.—New drainage, &c.

WATER SUPPLY.

Two towns only have a public supply, viz.: BRADNINCH and SILVERTON, the rest of the district being supplied by shallow wells, pumps, and overflowing springs, discharging through a shute or pipe.

These supplies are generally fairly wholesome; in the case of springs the water is discoloured in times of heavy rain.

At BRADNINCH the distributing mains are old and defective, and might with advantage be replaced. Many of the house connections are not controlled by stop-cocks, great waste and inconvenience is sometimes caused thereby.

At SILVERTON there is a good supply of water, the springs tapped, however, being at a low elevation. Cottages at the higher part of the town are not commanded by the mains and the occupiers have to fetch their water from a considerable distance.

A supply may in all probability be obtained at a much higher level; this at some future time would be worth consideration; effective house services might then be laid on.

At present no private supplies are granted.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Thirty two samples have been taken during the past year, six of which have been found unfit for use; these cases have been dealt with and are now satisfactory.

OUT-WORKERS.

Messrs. Heathcoat & Co., Lace Manufacturers, are the only employers of Out-workers in the district, in connection with their Lace Mending Rooms at Cullompton.

The average number during the past year has been seven. I have regularly visited each of their homes, and found them clean and satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of these in the district is twenty-eight, none of which are underground. They are as a rule kept in fair condition; and where I have found it necessary to complain the notices have been complied with speedily. Some of them are low and the flues have a tendency to smoke. These require white-washing more than twice a year to keep them clean, this work is however generally done.

At THORVERTON one of these old bakehouses situated in Dinneford Street was destroyed by fire. A new one thoroughly up to date has been built in Jericho Street.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

These number twenty-two. They have been regularly inspected and are kept in fair condition, white-washing being carried out every three months.

DAIRIES.

Generally clean and in fair condition, but often used as Larders, as in many cases no convenience of that sort is provided.

Pigsties are in some Dairies erected too near.

SCHOOLS.

Generally satisfactory. BRADNINCH GIRLS' SCHOOL has been greatly improved by a new system of drains and ventilation

BUTTERLEIGH SCHOOL has also been ventilated.

The SCHOOLS at present requiring attention are those at UFFCULME; SILVERTON BOYS' SCHOOL, and HOCKWORTHY SCHOOL.

At BICKLEIGH, Plans for new Sanitary Arrangements have been prepared, and the work I hope will soon be carried out.

OVERCROWDING.

Three cases have occurred during the past year, each of which have been dealt with.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications during the past year have been greatly in excess of several previous years, owing to the outbreak of Scarlet Fever in some parts of the district. The spreading of this disease has doubtless been caused in many instances by the carelessness of the persons concerned as well as the conditions under which they live.

Disinfection has in all cases been carried out, in the former part of the year by the occupiers themselves, by means of burning sulphur, &c.

During the latter part of the year I have in accordance with a resolution passed by you, personally disinfected in each case with Lingner's Disinfecting Apparatus and Formaldchyde. I am pleased to say this has proved very effective. In case of another outbreak it would however be advisable to purchase another Apparatus to avoid delay.

I have disinfected after thirty-seven cases with the Apparatus. Also the three Schools at BRADNINCH, and the Infant School at CULLOMPTON; and also seen to the disinfection of the Girls' School at SILVERTON, and the Schools at KENTISBEARE

CERTIFICATES OF WATER SUPPLY TO NEW BUILDINGS.

Six have been granted for the ten new houses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Suitable means of escape in case of fire are provided in each of the Factories throughout the district, and Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

WORKROOMS, &c.

These I find are kept in good condition; there is no over-crowding, and ventilation is satisfactory. In one instance where I found it necessary to complain, new premises were provided.

SCAVENGING.

This is carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner. At CULLOMPTON, house refuse in the main streets is removed daily. An improvement might however, be made in the method of cleansing the streets in bad weather by putting on a small amount of extra labour and providing suitable appliances.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ROBERT ELLIS,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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